This year Charlotte Catholic’s debate team has taken strides towards greatness. Sponsored by history teacher Mr. Keane and coached by Ms. Moralis and her son Mathew Moralis, the team is starting to claim their place among the many clubs the school has to offer.

Certain individuals in the fifteen person club have recently begun to shine, placing in city and state wide competitions. One such participant is junior Stephen Prys.

“I initially joined the team for my college application, but throughout the competitions I got more and more into it and I realized I was actually having a lot of fun,” said Prys. The other students who have ranked in the tournaments were juniors Frankie Prey and Grant Hattenhauer, and sophomore Brett Heinz.

The competitions consist of three specific types of debates: Lincoln-Douglas (one vs. one), public form (2 vs. 2), and Student Congress. Student congress is more of an address to a group of people than a debate over a topic.

The size of the competitions vary from an event with just a few local schools to a regional tournament involving different schools from all over North Carolina and the surrounding states.

“The talent that comes from other schools is very unpredictable. There are a number of good schools and bad. Ardrey Kell, North Meck, and Riverside are definitely the hardest opponents we’ve faced so far,” said Hattenhauer.

To prepare for the competitions, debate team members are given the topics that will be focused on during the upcoming debates. In order to acquire background information about these topics, members use trusted sources either from the Internet or briefs.

The briefs, purchased by Ms. Moralis, are reliable sources with background material on a specific topic had been formally debated by politicians and experts.

“After the information for the topics are found and backed up, we form our own opinion on the topic and begin to lay out the basic floor plan for what we will talk about during our event,” said Prys.

When arrived at the location of a competition, usually another high school, the team sits around a table to make their final preparations before the meet. Once the schedule is given out the participants find the class room where they will be competing for the day.

Catholic provides a bus for transportation to the event, but riding it is not required.

“When we get there everyone has a laptop out trying to get the last little leg up on their competition, but once the debate starts everyone is pretty much on their own,” said Hattenhauer.